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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/723,375	11/25/2003	Keith W. Atkinson	IGT1P304/AC043	8007

22434 7590 11/01/2007

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EXAMINER	
KIM, KEVIN Y	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3714	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
11/01/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/723,375	ATKINSON ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kevin Y. Kim	3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *30 August 2007*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-9* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-9* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *25 November 2003* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *See Continuation Sheet*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Continuation of Attachment(s) 2). Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date :10/12/2004,8/30/2007.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-3 and 5-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brosnan et al (US 6,682,423).

3. In re claim 1, Brosnan discloses a gaming network comprising:

a plurality of gaming machines (figure 1A);

one or more information servers coupled to the plurality of gaming machines, the one or more information servers structured to store data related to the plurality of gaming machines and related to players of the gaming machines, and to generate data for use on the gaming network (figure 1A, 71-74, column 6, lines 15-46);

a secure wireless server coupled to the one or more information servers (figure 1A, 52d-g, column 10, lines 2-47);

a secure wireless receiver, other than the one or more information servers, structured to couple to the secure wireless server (figure 1A, 52a-c, column 10, lines 2-47). While it is not explicitly disclosed that the connection of Brosnan is a secure data channel, it is well known in the art that wireless connections implemented by computer systems and machines must be secure, especially when communicating sensitive data such as the information being transferred in a casino. Such secure channels may be

implemented in several ways:

a password to access the wireless servers;

MAC ID filtering;

WEP and WPA encryption;

WPA2 encryption;

et al.

As the system of Brosnan implements a communication interface capable of wireless communication (for example, a wireless router/receiver such as one manufactured by Linksys implementing the 802.11g protocol), one skilled in the art would have the knowledge to secure the wireless data with one of the above methods, and thus, would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made, as it is a well known improvement in the art that yields a predictable result.

4. In re claim 2, Brosnan discloses the wireless server is structured to create a session with the secure wireless receiver, where the session is created when a player inserts a player tracking card that communicated with the game server to execute the functions of player tracking (column 19, lines 30-57). In other embodiments, a session is created when a gaming machine needs to be updated (column 20, lines 14-20).

5. In re claim 3, Brosnan discloses the session is limited in duration, as the session lasts only as long as the player plays the gaming machine (column 19, lines 30-57).

6. In re claim 5, Brosnan discloses a system for redeeming tickets comprising:

one or more information servers on a gaming network, the one or more information servers configured to store data related to past play of gaming machines

and related to players of the gaming machines, and to generate data for use on the gaming network (column 19, lines 30-58);

data stored on the one or more information servers relating to transactions previously memorialized by a ticket (column 18, lines 47-55).

Please refer to the discussion of claim 1 regarding the wireless server and receiver.

7. In re claim 6, Brosnan discloses a session detector, where the session detector is a card reader used to initiate a gaming session for a player (column 19, lines 30-45).

8. In re claim 7, Brosnan discloses the ticket identifier correctly identifies a previously memorialized transaction (column 18, lines 18-27). The information servers are configured to then generate redemption data (column 18, lines 46-55).

9. In re claim 9, Brosnan does not explicitly disclose that the redemption data includes the date and time a ticket was redeemed. However, this is an obvious and well known necessity for tickets that are redeemed in casinos, as the tracking system must know whether or not awards have been redeemed such that players cannot illegally and impermissibly claim rewards multiple times from the same reward.

10. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brosnan as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of Acres et al (US 5,876,284).

11. In re claim 4, Brosnan has been discussed above, but is silent on establishing a session only during certain time periods. Acres teaches a bonus pool that is implemented during a particular time period (column 37, lines 43-56), where a bonus

server operates said bonus pool. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the bonus pool at a particular period as disclosed by Acres in the machine of Brosnan in order to give the casino additional control over bonusing conditions.

Response to Arguments

12. Applicant's arguments filed 8/30/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's remarks concerning the prior art availability have been taken into consideration, but in view of the new 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection is moot. Furthermore, applicant argues that Brosnan does not disclose a secure wireless server coupled to one or more information servers and a secure wireless receiver, other than the one or more information servers, structured to couple to the secure wireless server. The examiner respectfully disagrees.

Brosnan clearly discloses that the communications interfaces may be implemented in a wireless fashion (column 10, lines 1-6). The communications interfaces communicate using the network lines 57, which in turn are wireless as disclosed. Additionally, as clearly shown by figure 1A, there exists wireless receivers (52b-c) that are separate from the information servers, i.e. other than the than the one or more information servers (71-74). The receivers and servers are coupled by the network lines 57 through the network 60.

Conclusion

13. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin Y. Kim whose telephone number is 571-270-3215. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, alternating Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan Thai can be reached on 571-272-7147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

KK
10/30/2007

XUAN M. THAI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER